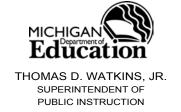


STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LANSING



February 11, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Local and Intermediate

School District Directors of Special Education, Chief Executive Officers of Public

School Academies, Special Education Advisory Committee, Intermediate School District Parent Advisory Committee Chairs, State Parent Advisory Committee, Early-On Coordinators, State Interagency Coordinating Council, Continuous Improvement Monitoring Steering Committee, Department of Corrections, Department of Community Health, Family Independence Agency, State and Local Hearing Officers, Education Alliance and Organizations and

Associations Interested in Special Education and Early-On

FROM: Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Ph.D., Director

Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

Roberta E. Stanley, Director

Office of Administrative Law and Federal Relations

SUBJECT: Transfer of Responsibility for Administering Special Education Due

Process Hearings to the Office of Administrative Law

Over the past few years, the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services has been working with the Department of Education's Office of Administrative Law to improve the management of the due process system for resolving Special Education disputes. This collaboration, along with the feedback from special education stakeholders through the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process, has created insights for long-range improvement to the system. Also, the variety of fiscal and staffing constraints created by state budget challenges have required both Offices to assign staff and work as efficiently as possible. Thus, beginning this month, responsibility for the daily management of the due process hearing system has been transferred to the Office of Administrative Law. Please make note of the following contact information for due process hearing matters.

Coordinator: Lauren Harkness **Surface Mail:** Office of Administrative Law

Administrative Law Judge 608 W. Allegan Street Office of Administrative Law P.O. Box 30008

harknessl@michigan.gov Lansing, Michigan 48909

Support Staff: Debbie Maurer and Pat Hampton **Phone:** (517) 373-8369

Administrative Law Fax: (517) 373-9238

OSE/EIS 04-07

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